REC'D 13 MAY 2005

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILYTTPO

PCT

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Artcle 36 and Rule 70)

10/538717

Applicant's or agent's file reference					
Applicant's or agent's file reference pct0407	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416			
International application No.	International filing date(day/month	lyear) Priority date (day/month/year)			
PCT/KR2004/000012	07 JANUARY 2004 (07.01				
International Patent Classification (IPC					
IPC7 E04C 5/16		·			
Applicant					
KIM, Yong Keun		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
Authority under Article 35 and t	ransmitted to the applicant according				
2. This REPORT consists of a tota	of 4 sheets, including	g this cover sheet.			
3. This report is also accompanied	by ANNEXES, comprising:				
		ofsheets, as follows:			
sheets of the de and/or sheets co Administrative	ntaining rectifications authorized by t	nich have been amended and are the basis for this report this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the			
	•	Authority considers contain an amendment that goes			
beyond the disc	losure in the international application	as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the			
Supplemental B b. (sent to the Internation					
containing a sequence	at Bureau only) a total of (indicate ty listing and/or tables related thereto, in	pe and number of electronic carrier(s)), n computer readable form only, as indicated in the			
Supplemental Box rela	ting to Sequence Listing (see Section	802 of the Administrative Instructions).			
4. This report contains indications					
Box No. I Basis of th	e report				
Box No. II Priority	•				
	Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability				
<u>-</u>	nity of invention				
Box No. V Reasoned citations a	statement under Article 35(2) with re nd explanations supporting such state	egard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; ment			
Box No. VI Certain do	ocuments cited	•			
Box No. VII Certain de	Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application				
Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application					
Date of submission of the demand	Date of	completion of this report			
18 MARCH 2004 (18.03.2004)	26 APRIL 2005 (26.04.2005)			
Name and mailing address of the IPEA		zed officer			
Korean Intellectual Proper 920 Dunsan-dong, Seo-gu Republic of Korea	Doning 202 701	IM, Hyun Woo			
Facsimile No. 82-42-472-7140	Telepho	one No. 82-42-481-5795			



International aplication No.
PCT/KR2004/000012

Box No. I Basis of the report							
1.		regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language indicated under this item. This report is based on translations from the original language into the following I which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of: international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)) publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4) international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)					
2.	 With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this reort as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report): the international application as originally filed/furnished 						
		the description:					
		pages	as originally filed/furnished				
		pages* received by this Authority on pages* received by this Authority on					
	·	pagesieccived by this Addiority off					
		the claims:					
i•	· ::	pages as amended (toget	as originally filed/furnished her with any statment) under Article 19				
		pages* as amended (toget	mer with any stanienty much Article 19				
		pages* received by this Authority on					
		Alexander con	·				
	لـــا	the drawings: pages	as originally filed/furnished				
		pages* received by this Authority on					
		pages* received by this Authority on					
4.	the sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: the description, pages						
*	If item	a 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."					

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International aplication No.
PCT/KR2004/000012

Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
	citations and explanations supporting such statement

1.	Statement			
	Novelty (N)	Claims	1-22	YES
		Claims	NONE	NO
	Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-22	YES
	- , ,	Claims	NONE	NO
	Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-22	YES
		Claims	NONE	NO
	Industrial applicability (IA)			

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: KR 96-22889 U

D2: JP 45-014832 Y

D3: JP 09-165875.A

D4: JP 10-152941 A

D5: JP 13-304210 A

The present invention relates to a reinforcing bar coupler comprising a sleeve, a cover unit, and a wedge.

1. Novelty

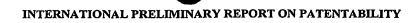
Claim 1 of the present application relates to a reinforcing bar coupler comprising a sleeve having reinforcing bar seating grooves, a cover unit for covering the reinforcing bars seated in the seating grooves of the sleeve, and a wedge fitted into a space between the sleeve and the cover unit to wedge the cover unit.

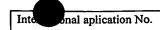
None of said documents disclose said technical features of the present application. Therefore, the present application is considered to be novel.

2. Inventive Step

The following are comparisons between claim 1 of the present application and said documents:

(Continued on Supplemental Sheet.)





PCT/KR2004/000012

Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient. Continuation of:

Box V.

D1 does not have a cover unit or a wedge, and consequently produces a weaker effect for wedging reinforcing bars. D2 does not have a wedge, and consequently produces a weaker effect for wedging reinforcing bars. D3 has a technical feature corresponding to the cover unit of claim 1, but does not have any technical feature corresponding to the wedge. D4 does not have any technical feature corresponding to the cover unit or wedge of claim 1, and consequently produces a weaker effect for wedging reinforcing bars. D5 has a technical feature corresponding to the wedge of claim 1. However, the sleeve of D5 is different from that of claim 1, and D5 does not have any technical feature corresponding to the cover unit of claim 1. In addition, as the effect of a wedge for wedging reinforcing bars, the contact area according to D5 is small, and consequently the wedging effect of D5 is weaker.

Therefore, the subject matter of claim 1 of the present application involves an inventive step over said documents. The subject matter of claims 2-22 which refer to claim 1 is also considered to involve an inventive step.